

CONDUCT OF VESSELS IN RESTRICTED  
VISIBILITY

**§ 111.19 Conduct of vessels in restricted visibility (Rule 19).**

(a) This section applies to vessels not in sight of one another when navigating in or near an area of restricted visibility.

(b) Every vessel shall proceed at a safe speed adapted to the prevailing circumstances and conditions of restricted visibility. A power-driven vessel shall have her engines ready for immediate maneuver.

(c) Every vessel shall have due regard to the prevailing circumstances and conditions of restricted visibility when complying with the §§ 111.4 through 111.9 (Rules 4 through 9) of this subpart.

(d) A vessel which detects by radar alone the presence of another vessel shall determine if a close-quarters situation is developing or risk of collision exists. If so, she shall take avoiding action in ample time, provided that when such action consists of an alteration of course, so far as possible the following shall be avoided:

(1) An alteration of course to port for a vessel forward of the beam, other than for a vessel being overtaken; and

(2) An alteration of course towards a vessel abeam or abaft the beam.

(e) Except where it has been determined that a risk of collision does not exist, every vessel which hears apparently forward of her beam the fog signal of another vessel, or which cannot avoid a close quarters situation with another vessel forward of her beam, shall reduce her speed to the minimum at which she can be kept on her course. She shall if necessary take all her way off and in any event navigate with extreme caution until danger of collision is over.

(f) Except as provided in paragraph (g) of this section, vessels moored or at anchor shall not get underway when, because of atmospheric conditions, visibility is less than 1,000 feet and vessels underway in such conditions shall anchor or moor as soon as practicable and report immediately to the Canal Operations Captain, or his designee by radio or other available means.

(g) Vessels specially equipped to navigate under conditions restricting visibility and which have a pilot aboard, and vessels which have a pilot aboard and which are assisted by Panama Canal Commission vessels which are specially equipped to navigate under such conditions, may, at the discretion of the Canal Operations Captain or his designee, be navigated when visibility is less than 1,000 feet.

[48 FR 52704, Nov. 22, 1983, as amended at 55 FR 11909, Mar. 30, 1990]

**Subpart C—Lights and Shapes**

**§ 111.20 Application (Rule 20).**

(a) Sections 111.20 through 111.31 (Rules 20–31) in this subpart shall be complied with in all weathers.

(b) The regulations concerning lights shall be complied with from sunset to sunrise, and during such times no other lights shall be exhibited, except such lights as cannot be mistaken for the lights specified in this part or do not impair their visibility or distinctive character, or interfere with the keeping of a proper lookout.

(c) The lights prescribed by this part shall, if carried, also be exhibited from sunrise to sunset in restricted visibility and may be exhibited in all other circumstances when it is deemed necessary.

(d) The regulations concerning shapes shall be complied with by day.

(e) The lights and shapes specified in this part shall comply with the provisions of Annex I to the 72 COLREGS.

**§ 111.21 Definitions (Rule 21).**

(a) *Masthead light* means a white light placed over the fore and aft centerline of the vessel showing an unbroken light over an arc of the horizon of 225 degrees and so fixed as to show the light from right ahead to 22.5 degrees abaft the beam on either side of the vessel.

(b) *Sidelights* means a green light on the starboard side and a red light on the port side each showing an unbroken light over an arc of the horizon of 112.5 degrees and so fixed as to show the light from right ahead to 22.5 degrees abaft the beam on its respective side. In a vessel of less than 20 meters